

~~SECRET~~

March 15, 1963

The Vice President

Colonel Burris

Highlights

DECLASSIFIED

Authority State 4-14-78 NSC 1-12-81

By ing, NARS, Date 4-26-81

Cuba

The best estimates are that 1700 Soviet personnel have left Cuba in the last few weeks. Soviet ships now in Cuban ports could remove an additional 1500 this weekend. If these figures are accurate, Khrushchev's promise to remove several thousand will appear to be actually in the neighborhood of 3000.

USSR-China

The battle of words has resolved itself into skirmishing for direct talks. Tactics now seem to suggest an initial meeting between Russian and Chinese representatives, followed by an international Communist meeting. However, the break is so fundamental that no series of meetings is expected to achieve a resolution in the foreseeable future.

USSR

The quarrel between Khrushchev and the artists and writers has taken a new turn. The issue is really a manifestation of a renewed effort of certain groups in the Soviet Union to gain freedom of speech and expression. Khrushchev's policy has been subject to marked changes; he has permitted certain freedoms and then just turned around and suppressed them. His most recent tactic toward a particular individual who pursues the issue of complete self-expression is to have the writer declared insane and placed in a mental institution.

Yemen

President Sallal has announced that Egypt will begin troop withdrawals immediately until half of the forces are removed. He noted, however, that Egyptian Air Force units in Yemen would remain (having only recently resumed bombing Saudi Arabian towns). Sallal's announcement conflicts with other information which indicates Nasser is preparing to move additional ground forces into Yemen.

Syria

The new regime is dominated by Arab Nationalists and in spite of its attempt to steer an independent course has been subjected to considerable pressure to realign itself with Egypt (the original United Arab Republic). Nasser has initiated heavy propaganda attacks and has instigated pro-Nasser demonstrations in Syria. He even dispatched several Ministers to Damascus who formerly served there in the old UAR, but officials of the new regime sent them back to Cairo on the next plane. The situation is confused to the extent that a new coup could occur at any time and the resultant regime would, without a doubt, be closely aligned with Nasser.

Congo

Tshombe has returned to Elizabethville after six weeks in Europe. He was greeted as a returning hero at a time when Adoula is getting in deeper trouble. Although Tshombe agreed to the integration of Katanga before his departure, his Ministers have actually delayed the process. In the meanwhile U.N. forces in the Congo will shortly be greatly reduced and Tshombe may, after all, come out the winner in that long struggle.

USSR

On resumption of the disarmament talks in Geneva, the Soviet delegate established the pre-condition that the Soviet requirements for on-sight inspections would have to be unconditionally acceptable before the discussions could proceed. He charged that the United States was actually trying to disrupt the disarmament conference.